

Public response to Docket # E-01345A-19-0236.

I moved to Wickenburg in 2003 and by 2006 I had observed an unusual influence of APS over local public affairs. Its local officer was involved in annexation affairs and the APS logo is found on the Wickenburg "Focused Future" plan which recommends sprawl development and industrial development on its far western periphery. APS founded a local economic development agency (WEDP) which soon abandoned all local operations and morphed into a major heavy industrial project in a rural location with no labor force 15 miles west of town with excellent solar potential and located withing two miles of major WAPA transmission lines. Interestingly, most of the new jobs to be created were to be relocated from the central phoenix BNSF railyards which is SRP territory. I have followed this project to its recent well justified demise, but also to the unconscionable waste of state, federal and town funds that resulted.

What's the point here? APS is looking to expand its infrastructure anywhere it can get away with it because everything it builds gets a guaranteed above market return! What the corporation commission approved formulas have been doing is creating a perverse incentive for APS to build anything resembling infrastructure regardless of economic feasibility. This has to stop!

Solution: Any rate of return higher than the historic stock dividend (which drives the stock price) should not be approved and any asset value that has no logical connection to the public interest should be excluded from the eligible asset base. That dividend rate is currently in the 3 to 3.5% range.